IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert following paragraph between "the title of invention" and "Field of the invention:"

-- This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application number10/162,261, filed on June 4, 2002, currently pending, which is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/529,900, filed April 21, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,485,496 issued November 26, 2002. --

Please insert the following paragraph at page 4, after line 18:

--Fig. 3a shows an axial view of a device similar to that shown in Fig. 3 except which has an elliptical cross-section.--

Please insert the following paragraph at page 4, line 24:

--Fig. 6a shows an axial view of the device of Fig. 3a in the joining position.--

The paragraph at page 4, lines 24-26:

--Figs. 7-12 are views corresponding with Figs. 1-6 of a second embodiment of the device according to the invention. From the axial views shown in Figs. 9 and 12, it can be seen that the second embodiment of the device according to the invention has a polygonal cross-section.—

The paragraph at page 9, lines 1-17.

--Figs. 13 - 15 show an embodiment of an applicator which can be used for that purpose. The applicator is provided with a preferably rigid, shank-like element 13, on the proximal end of which means are provided for manipulating the applicator, such as a grip, and on the distal end of which a head 14 is formed. Head 14 is provided with two axially spaced-apart hubs 15, 16, one of which, for example hub 16, is capable of axial movement, which movement is controlled from the proximal end of shank-like element 13. Rigid arms 17 are arranged on hubs 15 and 16 in a star-like fashion, wherein pairs of associated arms 17 of the two hubs 15 and 16 present at corresponding circumferential positions are pivotally interconnected in a point some distance away from their free ends. Arms 17 are

also pivotally connected to hubs 15 and 16, with the pivots extending tangentially with respect to shank-like element 13. In this manner clips are formed~~, as it were~~.--

The paragraph at page 10, lines 3-12.

--In this case, annular element 1 consists of a circular, elongated element 19, which is circumferentially provided in a number of places with pin-shaped elements ~~10~~20, which axially project to one side from said elongated element 19. The pins may be provided with points 21 thereby, whilst the pin-shaped elements 20 may be flat, or possibly round or the like. As is shown in Figs. 19 - 21, the pin-shaped elements 20 are in large measure bent radially outwards in the joining position of the device, but they may also be bent tangentially.--

The paragraph at page 10, lines 13-29.

--In order to be able to deform the pin-shaped elements 20 from the starting position to the joining position, the applicator according to Figs. 22 - 24 is provided. Also this applicator is provided with a shank-like element 13 and a head 14, but in this embodiment said head is provided with a detainer 23 in the form of a sleeve to be positioned proximally with respect to annular element 1, which is attached to the head, and with deflector elements 24, which can be moved at least axially, but preferably axially as well as radially, which deflector elements can be manipulated from the proximal end of shank-like element 13. Said deflector elements 24 consist of a fixed hub 25, an axially movable hub 26 and arms 27 which are pivoted together and connected to hubs 25, 26, which arms can be brought into engagement with the pin-shaped elements 20, and which can be deflected from an axial position to a radial position, wherein annular element 1 is stopped by detainer 23.—